

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-19 SS-15 NSC-10 NSCE-00 SSO-00

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FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1892

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T USNATO 4663

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: SECOND PHASE AND POST-REDUCTION CEILING

REF: STATE 194489

1. DURING SPC DISCUSSION OF OCTOBER 1-2 OF OLD PARA 16 (NEW PARAS 35-36), U.S. REP MADE PROPOSAL CONTAINED REFTEL. AFTER INITIAL REFUSAL TO ACCEPT SUGGESTION THAT HIS SENTENCE READING "REDUCED FORCES OF COUNTRIES WITHIN THE AREA SHOULD BE INACTIVATED AND PUT IN RESERVE STATUS," BE PLACED AS A FOOTNOTE, WILLOT, ON OCTOBER 2, RELUCTANTLY AGREED IN VIEW OF GENERAL LACK OF SUPPORT FROM OTHERS. HE RETAINED, HOWEVER, HIS BRACKETS AROUND "IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT" AND CONTINUED TO PROPOSE THAT "FURTHER" BE REPLACED BY "IN DETAIL."

2. WITH RESPECT TO BELGIAN-DUTCH PROPOSED SENTENCE ON POST-REDUCTION OVERALL COMMON CEILING, UK JOINED MOST OTHER EUROPEAN ALLIES IN SUPPORT OF THIS LANGUAGE, UK REP LOGAN SAID THAT LONDON HAS NOW COME AROUND TO BELGIAN-DUTCH "EUROPEAN" ARGUMENTS AND FINDS PERSUASIVE THEIR CASE FOR RETAINING MAXIMUM POSSIBLE FLEXIBILITY FOR EUROPEAN ALLIED FORCES POST-MBFR WITHIN AN OVERALL COMMON CEILING.

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BELGIAN, ITALIAN AND DUTCH REPS, IN RESPONSE TO U.S. SUGGESTIONS, SAID THEY COULD AGREE TO HAVE THIS POSITION REENFORCED AS WELL IN THE GUIDELINES SECTION, BUT WOULD CONTINUE TO INSIST THAT IT BE RETAINED IN SECTION II. IF ANYTHING, THEY WOULD

PREFER THAT IT BE PUT UP HIGHER IN SECTION II, E.G. IN
PARA 22 OR PARA 24. U.S. REP THOUGHT THAT THE BEST AND
CLEAREST COURSE WOULD BE TO KEEP BELGIAN-DUTCH SENTENCE IN
BRACKETS AT END OF SECTION II.

3. COMMENT: WEHAVE THUS COME FULL CIRCLE ON THIS ISSUE, WITH
THE EXCEPTION THAT UK HAS ADDED IMPORTANT SUPPORT TO THIS
"EUROPEAN" PRINCIPLE. THIS IS PARTICULARLY SIGNIFICANT,
IN VIEW OF STRONG BRITISH RELUCTANCE THERETOFORE TO GET INTO
DETAILS ON STEPS BEYOND FIRST PHASE. MISSIONSEES LITTLE
POSSIBILITY OF BREAKING SOLID FRONT AND WOULD APPRECIATE
GUIDANCE SOONEST ON WHETHER WE CAN ACCEPT BELGIAN-DUTCH
PARAGRAPH, PERHAPS WITH SOME MODIFICATIONS TO MAKE IT LESS
DEFINITIVE, IN SECTION II. END COMMENT.
RUMSFELD

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